West Airlines have not been deposited with the Government;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to recover this amount;

(c) whether such charges are there against other private airlines also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) A sum of over Rs. 14 crores is estimated to be outstanding against M/s. East-West Airlines, as Inland Air Travel Tax for the period March, 1992 to February, 1993.

(b) Since M/s. East-West Airlines did not pay the Inland Air Travel Tax under the provisions of the Finance Act, 1989, a show cause notice was issued to the airlines demanding the arrears of the taxes due to be paid by them. While the adjudication proceedings were in progress, the airlines filed a writ petition in the Delhi High Court inter-alia seeking stay of the proceedings. The Hon'ble High Court has directed that on the petitioner depositing a sum of Rs. 4 crores within four weeks from the date of the order (26-7-93) there shall be stay of further proceedings in pursuance of the impugned notices.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Three other prlvate airlines have also not deposited Inland Air Travel Tax as per details below:

S. No.	Name of the Airlines/carrier	Estimated Amount outstanding (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	M/s. Jagson Airlines, New Delhi.	Rs. 11·31
2.	M/s. Citi Link Airways, New Delhi.	Rs. 60.16
3.	M/s. Continental Aviation Pvt. Ltd., Bombay.	Rs. 35·83

Show Cause notices demanding the payment of Inland Air Travel Tax have been issued to each of the aforesaid three carriers.

Excise Concessions to Consumers

$1973. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that failure on the part of the trade and industry to pass on the customs concessions and excise duties to consumers have been considered by Government;

(b) if so, whether it has also been reported that almost all the industries have not so far passed on their concessions to the consumers;

(c) if so, how many industries have failed to do it; and

(d) what action Government propose to take against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. It is not correct to state that "all the industries have not passed on" the reduction in the rate of duty of excise to their buyers.

(c) The study conducted on the trend of wholesale prices of the commodities affected by the reduction in rate of excise duty, by 1993-94 budget, reveals that for almost all such excisable commodities, most of the manufacturers had initially reduced the wholesale price. Of late, though, for some commodities, such prices have been increased by certain segments of industry.

(d) There is no legal mechanism to enforce reduction in price to the extent of reduction in excise duty. However, dialogue has been initiated with segments of industry, where the wholesale price has shown increase.

$Previously unstarred Question 1459, transferred from 5th August, 1993.